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ACTION ARA-15

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5/9/79

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 SR-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SY-05 PA-01
L-03 H-01 /073 W

-----130452 111613Z /65

R 092056Z MAY 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0590

BUENOS AIRES 3703

E.O. 12065 XDS-2 5-9-09 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT FEEDBACK FROM INQUIRIES ON RECENT DISAPPEARANCES

REF: BUENS AIRES 3495
1. ENTIRE TEXT)

2. ON MAY 7 A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE WITHIN AN ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE REPORTED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT ON THE EVENING OF FRIDAY, MAY 4, A SPECIAL MEETING WAS CONVENED OF SENIOR OFFICERS OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND POLICE OFFICERS. REPRESENTATION WAS UNUSUALLY BROAD, INCLUDING ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, PREFECTURA, GENDARMERIA, SIDE AND FEDERAL SECURITY SERVICE. THE MEETING WAS REPORTEDLY CONVENED AT GENERAL VIOLA'S ORDER TO OBTAIN FROM EACH SERVICE A REPORT ON INFORMATION IT HAD RELATING TO THELMA DOROTY JARA DE CABEZAS, PURSUANT TO VIOLA'S PREVIOUS ORDER TO FIND HER. ONE SERVICE REPORTED A RECORD OF HER BRIEF DETENTION AND INTERROGATION FOLLOWING A DEMONSTRATION OF THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO LAST YEAR. ALL SERVICES DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF HER DISAPPEARANCE OF CURRENT WHEREABOUTS.

3. SOURCE COMMENTED THAT A MEETING OF THIS NATURE WAS UNUSUAL AND HE BELIEVED THAT THE OFFICERS PRESENT REPORTED HONESTLY, FOR TO ATTEMPT TO LIE IN THE FACE OF A DIRECT ORDER OF THE ARMY COMMANDER WOULD BE

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BOTH PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY VERY DANGEROUS. THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEMBERS OF HIS ORGANIZATION WAS THAT THE ABDUCTION OF CABEZAS WAS

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to
Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

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EITHER AN OPERATION UNDERTAKEN INDEPENDENTLY BY LOW LEVEL ELEMENTS OF A SECURITY FORCE, OR WAS A CASE OF GENERAL SUAREZ MASON'S PERSONAL HIT SQUAD PERFORMING AN ABDUCTION OF A HIGH-PROFILE HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER TO EMBARRASS VIDELA AND VIOLA. HE REPORTED THAT THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WERE RESIGNED TO WAITING UNTIL CABEZAS BODY APPEARED, CONSIDERING THIS TO BE A CASE ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE ABDUCTION OF ELENA HOLMBERG IN NOVEMBER 1978.

4. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THIS REPORT IS THAT IT IS PROBABLY TRUE IN ITS ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ONE OR MORE PARTICIPANTS WITHHELD INFORMATION OR SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE ABDUCTION. POINTING THE FINGER AT GENERAL SUAREZ MASON IS COMMON, AND WHILE THE ALLEGATION OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IS POSSIBLY TRUE, IT STRIKES US AS TO CONVENIENTLY SELF-SERVING.

5. ON MAY 9 CHARGE PRESSED GENERAL VIOLA'S AIDE FOR INFORMATION ON DISAPPEARANCES AND WAS INFORMED THAT THE GENERAL HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ALL THE REPLIES TO HIS INQUIRIES ON THE MATTER BUT THAT A RESPONSE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY. FONOFF ALSO SAID NO GOA RESPONSE READY YET, BUT WOULD PUSH FOR REPLY. EMBASSY WILL KEEP THE ISSUE OF THESE DISAPPEARANCES BEFORE THE GOA.
CHAPLIN

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